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THE WALKING DEAD

DELUXE

image 61 APR

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ANTERIORMENTE:

Rick, Carl, Morgan y Abraham escaparon del rebaño, pero como los caminantes aún les seguían, el grupo se vio obligado a dejar el refugio temporal que Dale había encontrado y continuó avanzando hacia Washington D.C.

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¡DETÉN EL CAMIÓN!

NO PARECE ESTROPEADA. OH, TÍO-- ¡ESPERO QUE ESTA COSA FUNCIONE!

LE ECHARÉ ALGO DE GASOLINA EN EL CARBURADOR--A VER SI TODAVÍA ARRANCA. PUEDE QUE SOLO SE QUEDARA SIN GASOLINA.

SÍ--¡LAS LLAVES AÚN ESTÁN PUESTAS! ¡ALGUIEN SE LAS DEJÓ AQUÍ!

¡OH, DIOS MÍO!

¡CHICOS, TENÉIS QUE VER ESTO!

NI SIQUIERA ME *IMPORTA* PARA QUE SE USABA ESTA FURGONETA ANTES--MIRAD ESO-- ¡COLCHONES!

¡VAMOS A PODER DORMIR EN *COLCHONES!* DIOS, ESPERO QUE ESTA COSA FUNCIONE.

SÍ... ESTO PODRÍA SERVIR...

¿QUE PODRÍA SERVIR? ¡ESTO ES *INCREÍBLE!*

¡ES COMO SI LA NAVIDAD SE HUBIERA ADELANTADO ESTE AÑO!

¡HEY! ¿EL AÑO PASADO NOS SALTAMOS LA NAVIDAD?

¿PUEDES TRATAR DE ARRANCARLA? CREO QUE YA ESTÁ LISTA.

CLARO QUE SÍ.

URR-URR-URRRR!

VROOOM!

¡¡SÍ!!

¡ME PIDO DORMIR EN LA FURGONETA ESTA NOCHE!

DEBE-
RÍAMOS
HABLAR
SOBRE
CARL.

¡¿TODOS LISTOS?!

¡NOS VAMOS!

¿HABÉIS VISTO A LOS GEMELOS?

NO. ¿NO ESTÁN EN LA FURGONETA?

SE FUERON AL BOSQUE PARA MEAR--SE HAN IDO HACE UN MOMENTO. IRÉ A BUSCARLES.

NO, IRÉ YO.

¿BEN?

¿BILLY?

¿DÓNDE ESTÁIS, CHICOS?

NO TE PREOCUPES, SE VA A CONVERTIR.

NO LE HE DAÑADO EL CEREBRO.

NO PASA NADA, MAMI.

¿ANDREA?

¿NIÑOS?

¡¿DALE?!

¿QUÉ PASA? ¿QUÉ SUCEDE?

...

¿QUÉ PASA?

¡ALTO!

¡¡NO TE ACERQUES MÁS!!

VUELVE AL CAMPA-MENTO, DILES--

DILES QUE HOY NO VAMOS A CONDUCIR... Y QUE DEBERÍAN ADELANTARSE Y VOLVER A MONTAR EL CAMPA-MENTO...

¿QUÉ VAMOS A HACER?

¿QUÉ QUIERES DECIR?

NO PODEMOS DEJARLO ENCERRADO EN ESA FURGONETA ETERNAMENTE.

NI SIQUIERA SABE LO QUE HA *HECHO*. CUANDO LE HE METIDO EN LA FURGONETA--NO ENTENDÍA POR QUÉ TENÍA QUE QUEDARSE AHÍ DENTRO.

NI SIQUIERA SABE...

ESO LE HACE *MÁS* PELIGROSO.

¿PELIGROSO? ¿AHORA ES **PELIGROSO?** SOLO ES UN NIÑO.

ES UN NIÑO QUE NO ENTIENDE EL *ASESINATO*, DALE.

¿QUÉ LE IMPIDE MATAR A CUALQUIERA DE NOSOTROS MIENTRAS DORMIMOS?

PERO SOLO ES UN NIÑO. SOLO--

¿CÓMO HA PASADO ESTO?

LO SIENTO MUCHO, DALE.

VEN AQUÍ, SOPHIA.

SI HUBIERA PASADO UNA COSA ASÍ EN EL MUNDO REAL--ANTES DE TODA ESTA LOCURA--¿HABRÍA RECIBIDO QUÉ?--*¿VEINTE AÑOS* DE TERAPIA? LO HABRÍAN ENVIADO A UNA ESPECIE DE HOGAR DURANTE EL RESTO DE SU VIDA Y AUN ASÍ, PROBABLEMENTE *NUNCA* LE HUBIERAN CURADO.

ESA NO ES UNA OPCIÓN AQUÍ. NINGUNO DE NOSOTROS SOMOS TERAPEUTAS... NADIE PUEDE AYUDAR A ESTE CHICO. SOLO ES UNA CARGA--UN *LASTRE.*

NO HAY MUCHO MÁS QUE SE *PUEDA* HACER CON ÉL.

DIOS, ABRAHAM--¿QUÉ ESTÁS SUGIRIENDO?

TÚ *SABES* LO QUE SE DEBE HACER.

¡¿MATAR-LO?!

ESO ES LO QUE ESTÁS DICIENDO, ¡¿NO?! ¡¿CREES QUE DEBERÍAMOS *MATARLO*?!

¡ES UN NIÑO PEQUEÑO, MALDITA SEA! ¡¿QUIERES MATAR A UN NIÑO?!

...

SOPHIA, CIELO-- BUSQUEMOS OTRA COSA QUE HACER.

IRÉ CON VOSOT--

NO. TÚ *QUÉDATE*-- HAZ ENTRAR EN RAZÓN A ESTA PUÑETERA GENTE.

ESTO... NO PUEDES HABLAR EN *SERIO*, ABRAHAM.

ESO NO ES LO QUE ESTÁS SUGIRIENDO, ¿VERDAD?

SÍ.

YO CREO QUE LO *ES*.

¡A LA MIERDA!

¡NO PIENSO ESCUCHAR OTRA *PUTA* PALABRA DE ESTO!

ANDREA, ESPERA--

¡DEBERÍA DAROS VERGÜENZA!

TÍOS, LO PILLO... ES UN MUNDO DURO, NO TENEMOS MUCHAS OPCIONES... PERO NO ESTAMOS HABLANDO EN SERIO SOBRE MATAR A UN CRÍO...

¿...VERDAD QUE NO?

ME GUSTA TAN POCO COMO A TI, GLENN. LA VERDAD ES QUE ME PONE LOS PELOS DE PUNTA... PERO LA EDAD DE BEN NO LE HACE MENOS PELIGROSO.

SEPA O NO LO QUE HACE, RAJÓ A ESE CRÍO. ESO NO ESTÁ BIEN-- SIMPLEMENTE UN NIÑO NO ***HACE*** ESO A MENOS QUE ALGO NO ESTÉ BIEN EN SU CABEZA.

NO PODEMOS PERMITIRLO, TAL Y COMO VIVIMOS. ¿QUIÉN SABE CUÁNDO PODRÍA VOLVER A ESTALLAR? ES QUE NO... NO VEO OTRA SOLUCIÓN.

SI ESO ES LO QUE DECIDIMOS HACER--¿QUIÉN DE NOSOTROS SERÍA CAPAZ DE ***HACERLO?***

SALUDOS, HERMANOS Y HERMANAS.

¿TIENEN UN MOMENTO PARA HABLAR DEL SEÑOR?

¿ESTE TIPO ES REAL?

¡LEVANTA LAS MANOS Y DINOS QUIÉN COJONES ERES TÚ, AHORA MISMO!

SOY EL PADRE GABRIEL STOKES. SOLO SOY UN VIAJERO FATIGADO, CONTENTO DE HABER ENCONTRADO COMPAÑÍA.

NO QUIERO HACERLES DAÑO, NO LLEVO ARMAS DE NINGUNA CLASE.

GILIPO-LLECES--NO BAJES LAS MANOS.

NO LLEVA NADA--ESTÁ DICIENDO LA VERDAD.

LA PALABRA DE DIOS ES LA ÚNICA PROTECCIÓN QUE NECESITO.

NOS ESTÁS DICIENDO QUE HAS ESTADO AQUÍ FUERA, TÚ SOLO, TODO ESTE TIEMPO--¿SIN ARMAS DE NINGUNA CLASE?

LO SIENTO, PERO LAS COSAS DE AQUÍ FUERA QUE TRATAN DE COMERTE--NO SE DETENDRÁN POR UNA PEQUEÑA BIBLIA, TU HISTORIA SE ESTÁ YENDO A LA MIERDA.

¿CON QUIÉN TRABAJAS Y QUÉ QUIERES?

HE ESTADO EN MI IGLESIA--*SOLO*, DURANTE MUCHO TIEMPO. ME QUEDÉ SIN COMIDA. AL FINAL ME FUI HACE UNOS DÍAS... HE ESTADO CAMINANDO DESDE ENTONCES.

ME HE TOPADO CON ALGUNAS DE ESTAS ABOMINACIONES--PERO FUI CAPAZ DE DEJARLAS ATRÁS.

DIGO LA VERDAD, USTEDES TIENEN COCHES, MI IGLESIA NO ESTÁ TAN LEJOS... SI ME DAN ALGO DE COMIDA, LES PODRÍA LLEVAR HASTA ALLÍ. QUIZÁS PODRÍA OFRECERLES EL SANTUARIO QUE ESTÁN BUSCANDO.

TAL VEZ LUEGO. ESTAMOS UN POCO OCUPADOS EN ESTE MOMENTO, MIRA--LLEVAMOS ARMAS, TODOS NOSOTROS--***TÚ NO.*** NO INTENTES NADA.

QUE ALGUIEN LE ENSEÑE DONDE ESTÁ LA COMIDA.

QUE DIOS LE BENDIGA, HERMANO.

NO ME LO PUEDO CREER-- NI SIQUIERA UNO.

¿QUÉ QUIERES DECIR?

NI UN CAMINANTE... EN *TODO EL DÍA.* ¿CUÁNDO FUE LA ÚLTIMA VEZ QUE ESO OCURRIÓ? ¿ALGUNA VEZ HEMOS PASADO... UN DÍA ENTERO... SIN VER AL MENOS A UNO?

ES COMO SI SE ESTUVIERAN TOMANDO UN DESCANSO-- PERMITIÉNDO-NOS LIDIAR CON...

DALE, ¿QUÉ VAMOS A *HACER?*

NO DEJARÉ QUE NADIE MATE A BEN, ESO SEGURO. *NO PUEDO...* BILLY HA MUERTO, APENAS LO ACEPTO, LO SÉ... PERO NO PUEDO PERMITIR QUE LO MATEN.

NO LO HARÉ.

COGEREMOS LA FURGO Y NOS SEPARAREMOS-- IREMOS POR NUESTRA CUENTA SI HACE FALTA. *LO QUE SEA* PARA MANTENERLO A SALVO.

YA HEMOS HABLADO SUFICIENTE DE ELLO... *HAGÁ-MOSLO.*

¿ESTA NOCHE VAS A DORMIR EN LA FURGONETA CON BEN? NADIE MÁS LO HARÍA.

¿DEBERÍA-MOS?

NO LO SÉ.

¿ME TIENES MIEDO?

NO.

BLAM!

CARL-- ¡QUÉDATE EN LA TIENDA!

OH, NO.

OH, NO.

¿QUÉ PASA?

¡¿QUIÉN HA HECHO ESTO?! ¡AHORA MISMO QUIERO *SABER* QUIÉN HA MATADO A MI HIJO!

¡¡VAMOS, PUTO *COBARDE*!! ¡¿QUIÉN HA HECHO ESTO?!

¡DA LA CARA!

¡DA LA--!

¡ULP!

¿ESTÁS BIEN?

¡MI NIÑO! ¿QUIÉN HA MATADO A MI NIÑO?

YO ESTABA DE GUARDIA, NO HE VISTO A NADIE FUERA DE SU TIENDA-- *TODOS* ESTABAN DORMIDOS.

TODOS ESTABAN EN SUS TIENDAS... CREO QUE YO HE SIDO EL PRIMERO EN SALIR-- ME HAS VISTO CORRER HACIA LA FURGONETA. NO HE VISTO A NADIE MÁS AFUERA, SALVO A VOSOTROS DOS Y GLENN-- Y GLENN ESTABA ENCIMA DEL CAMIÓN.

NADIE HA VISTO *NADA*.

PUEDE QUE *NUNCA* SEPAMOS QUIÉN LO HA HECHO.

NO VI A CARL. LE ESTUVE DANDO VUELTAS EN MI CABEZA ANOCHE--NO LE VI. NO CREO QUE ÉL LO HICIERA, RICK... SOLO ES ALGO QUE PENSÉ...

CARL ESTABA DURMIENDO EN NUESTRA TIENDA--*CONMIGO*. LE DIJE QUE SE QUEDARA DENTRO CUANDO ESCUCHÉ EL DISPARO--NO SABÍA QUÉ ESTABA PASANDO.

DICEN QUE NOS IREMOS PRONTO.

¿LE GUSTARÍA QUE DIJERA UNAS PALABRAS ANTES DE IRNOS?

CON EL DEBIDO RESPETO, PADRE... NI SIQUIERA SÉ QUIÉN COJONES ES *USTED*.

OLVÍDALO--HA SUFRIDO MUCHO. ¿ALGUIEN TE HA EXPLICADO LO QUE SUCEDE?

ESTOY AL TANTO DE QUE SUS HIJOS GEMELOS AHORA ESTÁN MUERTOS... Y QUE ERAN LOS HIJOS DE OTRA PAREJA DE SU GRUPO QUE MURIÓ... Y QUE ÉL Y ANDREA DECIDIERON CRIARLOS COMO SI FUERAN SUYOS.

LO QUE HA PASADO AQUÍ HA SIDO HORRIBLE... PERO DIOS TIENE UN PLAN PARA TODOS.

SEGURAMENTE QUERÍA ALEJAR A ESOS NIÑOS DE TODO ESTO, LLEVÁRSELOS A SU REINO DE LOS CIELOS... Y DE NO HABERLO HECHO, USTEDES NO SE HABRÍAN QUEDADO Y YO NUNCA HABRÍA ENCONTRADO A SU GRUPO.

QUIZÁS DEBIERA GUARDARSE SUS TEORÍAS DE MIERDA PARA USTED, PADRE.

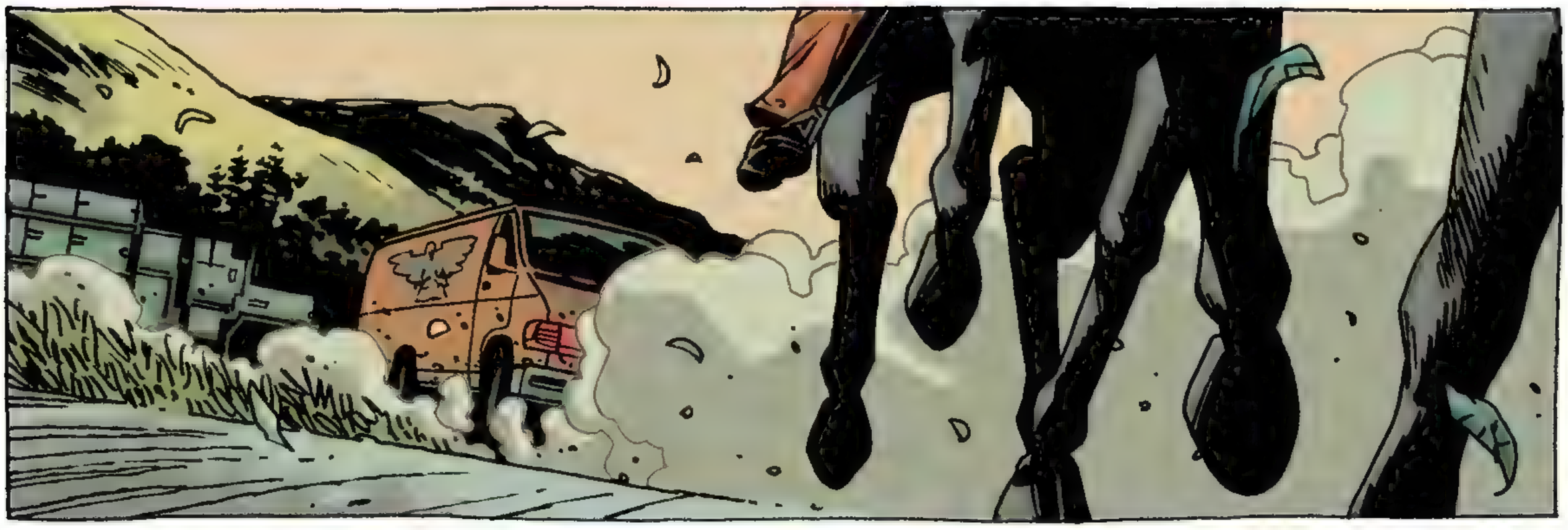
¿ALGO?

NO. ***NADA.*** ME HABÍA OLVIDADO DE COMPROBARLO CUANDO LLEGAMOS AQUÍ--HA PASADO UN TIEMPO DESDE QUE ENCENDÍ ESTA COSA.

TENDREMOS QUE ACERCARNOS MÁS A WASHINGTON ANTES DE PODER CAPTAR UNA SEÑAL.

VALE... PUES HAGAMOS ESO.

¡VALE, GENTE! ¡A CARGAR!



BUENO, ¿QUÉ HACEMOS AHORA?
AVISA A LOS DEMÁS. VAMOS A SEGUIRLES.

WRITE TO US AT: **WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM**

Hello, Letter Hacks, Amanda here! This issue is a lot to take in -- Billy, Ben, and then Carl... the kids are definitely NOT all right, and this is only the very start of our next story arc. In fact, we've got a story arc WITHIN a story arc over these six issues, since we're leading into the very dark "Fear the Hunters" event that starts in #62. And for those who have been keeping up, we've got another connecting cover set for this arc by the lovely Stephanie Hans -- who is bringing her haunting, painterly style to a very cool piece that's got a little bit of everything in there.

I'm thrilled with what Stephanie has been able to accomplish with her set of connecting covers. Just spectacular! What an issue to come back to with new mail! Sheesh!

Anyway, let's not waste any time and dive right in!

Hi Mr. Kirkman:

In TWD №50 someone asked if you ever put little "Easter Eggs" inside issues like zombie celebrities or quotes from movies? You replied, "Burt Reynold's moustache appears in every issue." That's a tough one and unable to find it. Can you please give a page№ or what the moustache looks like? I think it is on the second story roof over a window.

I learned the definition of an "Easter Egg" and "that's cannon" in TWD №37 when Jeffrey Grimes panda backpack in TWD The Alien can be found in The Walking Dead Saint's and Sinners implying Claudia was successful in making it to the states. You said, Claudia and Jeffrey's backpack were eaten by a whale as his backpack was found in the carcass of a whale. No mention of finding human bones. I read about a man who was gobbled up by a whale while taking pictures off South Africa's coast immediately held his breath until the whale promptly spit him back out.

Thank you.
Richard Moore

It's possible Claudia wasn't as lucky as that guy and only the backpack made it...

To be clear, sometimes I say things in this letter column... for fun. It's possible Burt Reynold's mustache doesn't appear in a single issue of THE WALKING DEAD ever... and I was only joking. But I will neither confirm nor deny that, or the fact that Claudia is alive and well and living it up in the Ozarks.

Dear Robert Kirkman,

I have never tried writing to an author of any kind before, but I decided to try writing to you after having to write a letter to the author of the book I chose for an English assignment. I have really enjoyed rereading The Walking Dead as the deluxe editions have been coming out. Hershel Greene was one of my favorite characters because he just seemed like a good guy to me, and even though I knew that he was going to die his death really hit me way too hard because even though his son died he still had one daughter that was still alive and a newly wed son-in-law, and despite that he still decided to let the governor kill him instead of fighting. Yet I am still looking forward to the next issues as I still want to see what happens to Rick and the rest of the gang.

I recently began reading Invincible, and I have enjoyed it so far. I have found it cool how the Outstanding Wolfman and Invincible seem to take place in the same universe. On another note which I'm sure this has been answered before so sorry in advance if it has. Do you plan on ever continuing The Walking Dead at all?

At the moment? I do not. But we're reprinting it in Deluxe form for another... six years or so? Who knows what could happen in that time.

Sincerely,

Kenny Miller

p.s how much longer until issue 69?

That second question I can answer... Issue #69 will be out August 16! Nice.

Dear Amanda, Image, The Walking Dead, and Kirkman,

I've been a reader of The Walking Dead since I was a kid. I enjoyed The Walking Dead Weekly format and have been published before and am very excited to see Fear The Hunters come to life in color along with Abraham and Rosita. Personally, it's a big achievement for me to live this long and see that the comic book series has a talented colorist and editor working on this book. I also enjoyed the finale to the TV series.

I've got questions that need answers. I'll do a number format that is reminiscent of the early days of the comic.

1. Will there ever be a sequel to the Walking Dead comic book? Will you be able to contract the rights to a comic book sequel to someone?

I suppose it sounds stingy, but I can't see myself ever allowing anyone else to write a series in this world. It was hard enough letting Brian K. Vaughan write a single issue. I HAVE talked to another writer about doing another self-contained thing, but I don't know if that will ever come together, and I definitely couldn't see myself ever allowing anyone to do a full-on sequel. I'd come back and write more stories myself before I allowed that to happen.

2. When coloring the comic, is there any debate about which colors to use for the characters clothing or for the deads blood/ remains? Is it up to the colorist or the original writers/creators?

Dave McCaig and I had some discussions early on about zombie blood being a little browner and grosser than human blood, and how I don't want to ever have green zombies or anything like that. Aside from that, the covers [from the original series run] themselves are a good guide for how characters should be colored, and I trust Dave's judgment when it comes to color in general, he is one of the best!

3. Will Robert Kirkman ever return to Letter Hacks?

I'm here right now! Do people not know this is me? This is ME!! I'm back commenting on letters every 6th issue. So, the start of every new "arc", even though the arcs aren't that clearly defined. Man... do people just think the two different colors are Amanda? Poor Amanda! I could inadvertently be putting words in your mouth! That's not great.

Thanks for zombie content and years of entertainment.

Sincerely, Xana Buurne

22-Year-Old American

I'm Amanda and I love this job so much I don't ever, ever want a raise, no siree.

G'day from Down Under!

Robert, I've loved your comics for years, from Jubilee (super fun read) to Black Panther 2099 (what an ending!) to Fire Power (so refreshing!). I did read the first 2 trades of TWD about 6 years ago and liked it, but sadly didn't keep getting more cos clearly my priorities were wrong haha.

Maybe you can only enjoy my work in small doses. 6 issues of Jubilee, *great. 193 issues of THE WALKING DEAD, too much!*

I came back to TWD thanks to 2 things; The Last of Us and Crossover. TLOU is my absolute favourite game franchise, mostly for it's enticing story telling and drama. I've played them so much that I needed more great zombie -- shit, sorry -- Walking Dead stories. Around this time, I'd finished reading Donny Cates' brilliant Crossover, and I loved your bit with Negan. Even though it is the 1st time reading his character I love it haha, so I wanted to dive back in.

The plan worked! I knew I wrote that scene for a reason.

So I looked up Walking Dead in the League of Comic Geeks app (an incredible resource) and I saw something called The Walking Dead Deluxe, clicked on it, read the description. then got super, SUPER excited!!! TWD BEING RERELEASED IN FREAKING COLOUR!?! FUCKING AWESOME!!! But I was 2 years behind at this point and I had to weigh up "is it worth me chasing down 40+ issues"? So I read №1 in colour from a... site... (I only do this to see if I want to buy the comic later) and quickly knew that TWDD was my way into Walking Dead. 3 months later and I've collected 38 of the 53 issues out so far! It's been a LOT of work chasing the issues down from different stores, particularly in Australia, and it's been more than worth it!

That's just awesome to hear!

I'm only reading the comics when I have them, so I've only read up to №13 so far. I've been loving what I've read and am hyped for all the things to come that I've heard about. Dave McCaig's colours are absolutely gorgeous! I'm collecting the covers he recolours and love love love being able to see both his and the original series covers, such a nice surprise when my comics started arriving! I also really appreciate you putting spoiler warnings in for people like me who are coming to the series fresh. My plan is to only read the series as the Deluxe issues come out, so I'll have finally finished TWD in about 6 years haha, which I think is so cool! I'll also be getting trades of your other series in the meantime. The Invincible Compendiums are next on my to buy list.

I also listen to music for all the comics I read as it helps me get immersed in what I'm reading. For TWD it's been a lot of country music, mostly Johnny Cash. I only knew his version of Hurt, so hearing and falling in love with his music has been great, THANKS!

If you like listening to music while you read the series, it might be interesting to know that for the 16 years I wrote the series I listened to a lot of The Dirty Three and Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds while writing it. So... y'know... you might give those a try.

Thank you so, so, SO fucking much for The Walking Dead Deluxe! I really appreciate the effort the whole team is making to give TWD new life and bring in new fans like me. You're all fucking kickass, and show why comic books is the best story telling medium!

P.S. Do you listen to music while reading/ writing comics? And are there any other comic series you think would be good for the Deluxe treatment?

Cheers, Bernie Noma.
Sydney, Australia.

I almost didn't pick this letter full of praise, but you snuck a question in at the very end. Glad you're enjoying!

I used to write with music playing almost all the time. Now, I do most everything in absolutely silence and I don't really know what caused the change. It's very odd. I would use music to help me jump from THE WALKING DEAD to INVINCIBLE, which I sometimes had to write scenes for in the same day. So, I'd go from The Dirty Three to Presidents of the United States of America or something... because while INVINCIBLE is actually a more violent comic... it was always more of a FUN comic.

Kirkman,

Up to this point I hadn't really noticed the color versus the black and white. However, this issue the background colors really popped. Even though this is a reunion type issue, which you would think would be a happier one, the background color still makes it a sad tone. Kind of cool.

Of all the characters in this series I really felt we didn't get enough of Abraham. He kind of had a Tyresse vibe to him but more than that I always kind of saw him as a "what if the Governor or Negan didn't go bad" kind of character.

Is it bad I totally forgot the twins existed until reading this issue?

Brandon Borzelli
Lebanon, NJ

Will you forget the twins after THIS issue, Brandon??

Heh.

Hello Robert, Amanda, and everyone else on The Walking Dead Deluxe Team,

Like a lot of letters I have seen as I reread through this series, this is my first time writing to comic creators, and for me there is no better comic to write to. This is my favorite series and I cannot express how awesome it is that you guys are rereleasing it in colored individual issues. I started reading this series around the New Beginning era and only collected it in trade and later in omnibus format, so getting it now in individual issues biweekly is so cool, I finally get to own all these covers that I didn't get the opportunity to own before! I have every variant of every Deluxe issue so far and I plan to continue getting all of them the rest of the way (please don't release 100 variants for issue 100, I'll go bankrupt).

Why would you even put that idea out into the world, Trey?

A hundred variants for issue #100 you say? Hmmmmmmm.

Robert, you have gotten me addicted to long-form storytelling, so much so that it's hard for me to get interested in shorter stories, because the characters do not evolve like they do in stories like The Walking Dead. Rick Grimes has to be my favorite character in fiction, as he transforms so much in the span of the story, and I relate to him to some degree. I am from Hebron, Kentucky and am actually currently living in the city of Lexington and going to the University of Kentucky to get my undergrad degree in architecture, and it's cool that Rick comes from a similar location that I do (and you do as well, Robert). Also, kind of a weird thing I've been doing as TWDD has been coming out is that I have been growing my hair on pace with Rick, just for fun. I have a similar hair type to Rick so I thought it would be an entertaining thing to do, and as you can imagine, my hair is starting to get quite long.

If you're in Lexington, make sure you hit GUMBO YA-YA, that place is the best!

I'm still waiting for you guys to release the TWD specials (ie Michonne, Tyreese, Morgan, Gov) in deluxe format, I think it would be cool if you did them every few months in 2023 for TWDs 20th anniversary, but no rush if you already have plans for them (you should probably do them somewhat soon though because the TWDD story is starting to progress beyond them). Anyway, thanks again for all the work you've done for us readers. If you put this in the Letter Hacks it would make my year!

P.S. I love the new Finch covers, every single one is excellent :D

Sincerely,
Trey Barnes

Consider your year made!

Thanks for writing in, Trey!

Hello Mr Kirkman

This is my first time writing to Letter Hacks. Ive only really got into The Walking Dead show back when Covid started. I wanted something new to watch and randomly clicked on the show. Best decision Ive ever made in my life so far. I never read the comics back then but year ago, I found a good deal on all the Compendiums and started reading through the first 30 ish issues. I started disliking the B&W format. Felt it too boring so gave up reading it. Had over 4000 pages of pure excellence on my shelf for a year. Every day I saw the cover of the second book and saw Rick. How different he looked from the first book. Next day I read all 4 books within 2 weeks every night before I went to bed. Rick as a character kept me going every day. The TV version and Comic version. I see my self in the mirror and think the person I aspire to be is Rick Grimes. Hell I'm starting to dress as him on accident. That character development of him made his story never get boring and who doesn't like a guy who will bite someones throat out to protect his family. I do have a few questions for you Mr Kirkman.

Some light spoilers ahead for all you new readers -- proceed with caution.

1. Do you think Rick ever had that no mad hardened version in himself hidden away even before the apocalypse ready to be triggered?

I don't. The potential was obviously there, but I don't think it existed until it needed to.

2. Why did you decide to have a shaved old man Rick?

Different visual looks are important to a character. Think of all the various Luke Skywalkers you can picture off the top of your head. It's important to have each era have a visual representation.

3. What made you choose to make Carl and Sophia a couple back in issue 193 and getting rid of Lydia?

Just to show that things had changed and occurred in the time jump... and it was always the plan, that these two who had been together almost the entire apocalypse ended up together.

4. What is your favorite pannel from the series.

Hard to pinpoint. There are so many great options. The one that affects me the most is definitely Lori's dead eyes staring me down while that dead baby arm peeks out from under her. Still haunts me to this day... friggin' Charlie Adlard and his unparalleled greatness.

Thanking for you making such a character that has got me through so many tough times.

Sincerely
Nick
Edmonton, Alberta

Glad to know the characters did the same thing for you they did for me!

Hey, Robert! Experiencing TWD comics for the first time ever and my God, what a ride it has been. I wonder if the deluxe issues will ever get a physical collected edition as I live in Pakistan and in a country like this, we hardly get comics and ones we do are delayed and collected editions so I would love to know your thoughts on it as I want to collect these amazing issues in my hand.

Sherjan Aamir.
Rawalpindi, Pakistan.

A letter from Pakistan is definitely a first for me, super cool!

There are no plans at this time to collect this series. There are still quite a few ways to collect this series in its original black and white form, after all.

Hello Letter Hacks,

Dave McCaig is one of my favorite colorists in all of comics, so I was thrilled when it was announced that he was the one who'd be coloring all of WD. (And a moderate guarantee that he'd be around for awhile, that he'd colored 90 issues before one was published? Wow, I appreciate Kirkman and company planning ahead like that.) I hadn't really read the series, and the one-issue-at-a-time release, a la Classic X-Men, and the biweekly schedule appealed to me. I love being able to compare McCaig's Cover B colors to the Rathburn originals on the back covers. And with interiors, McCaig does so much with a limited palette, like how one face or arm or hand will just be a tone, a highlight color, and a shade color, or one additional highlight color, three or five hues in total, and many, many objects and areas are just a single base color, like that one green-grey for the background sky at night.

Some more ornate or "hot" comics are a visual treat with all of Photoshop's 16 million colors in the right hands (*sigh*, a lot of not-right hands out there, too), with complex light sources and reflected light and gradients and textures, but reading those can be a little tiring. You have to be really good to make less-is-more work, which McCaig does in every single panel. He knows not just how to use Photoshop, but how light behaves. Yet he can also go heavier and more "modern" (to use an imprecise term), like that one Alan Davis Fantastic Four cover, or those seven Ivan Reis Green Lantern covers. Comics are a visual language, and McCaig is a great fit for Adlard's flatter shapes and spotted blacks.

All that said, I wanted to point out the coloring error in issue №56, page 19, panel 3.

-Tim

Well, dang, Tim. Went to take a look and there it is. We'll have to update that, thanks for pointing out!

Perfect structure to this email. Tons of compliments leading to the knife at the end. No notes.

Hi there, Mr. Kirkman!

Did you know you're big (no pun intended) here in the Philippines? Makes me wonder when are you going to visit our 7,107 beautiful islands though!

But anyways, first off, this is my first time to write to you and would like to thank you for creating such a wonderful story with so much blood and gore.

I was around 6 or 7 yrs. old when I first found out about The Walking Dead comic books. Heck, it took me about probably ten years to have my first copy of it, issue №100 being my first one (RIP Glenn) and from then on, I never missed a single issue. I am 24 now and I just finished reading №55 as of this writing and I'm hoping to see this printed sometime in the future? Hehe.....please?

Done!

Just a quick question: Being the great storyteller that you are, do you still have any plans on creating another story that has the same depth and gore as The Walking Dead?

Again, thank you for everything The Walking Dead. Kirkman Lives!

-Odracir, from the Philippines

I don't know that I'll ever do another series that lasts 100 issues or more. I think I'm the only creator in comics to have written TWO 100+ issue runs of an original creator-owned comic, and that makes me want to do THREE, but

realistically, I don't know when I'll find the time to squeeze in another decade worth of work with everything else I have going on. Maybe someday.

As for gore, yes... my recent work is QUITE tame in that respect. I find myself longing for the days of ultra-violence. I have a project on the horizon that will scratch that itch. Stay tuned.

That's all the new mail we've got for this arc but see you back here in another six-issues! Trying to answer as many questions as we can this year, so keep 'em coming!

-Amanda LaFranco

This was a LOT OF MAIL! Whew! Let's get to the old stuff!

-Robert Kirkman

Let me just take a moment to mention that I just noticed the other day that Y: The Last Man *ended at issue 60. Here we are at #61. Yikes. Maybe if we go 200 issues our series will be as good as* Y: The Last Man.

I had a discussion with Erik Larsen a while back about how we both compared our long-running series to other series we read as fans that hit similar numbers. When he hit Savage Dragon №50, *he would think about where* Fantastic Four *was at issue 50. In the same way, I compare INVINCIBLE to* Savage Dragon. *Was INVINCIBLE #25 even remotely as cool as* Savage Dragon №25? *Things like that, and it's only really done when my comp copies come in the mail... never when I'm actually doing the writing (that'd be cheating).*

Now, I've never really done that with THE WALKING DEAD. To be perfectly honest, I'm mostly unaware of what issue numbers are unless I'm getting covers done or writing a letters column. So yeah, I'm usually not thinking of what an issue number is when I'm plotting or writing, and I don't actively compare this book to Y: The Last Man *or any other series as far as plot progression or amount of lesbian sex scenes.*

But I have a tremendous amount of respect for writer Brian K. Vaughan, and series artist and co-creator, Pia Guerra. What they and their co-conspirators achieved on that series over its run is an inspiration to me and every other creator doing new, original comics these days. It's great, great stuff.

It almost doesn't feel right to pass them in issue numbers...

Anyway, sorry to ramble on there. I hope you guys like the issue, it's leading to some big cool stuff ahead for our crew of survivors. I'm more excited about this book now than I've ever been. I can't wait to show you all what we have planned.

Until then, how about I give a few snarky replies to some fan mail?

Dear Kirkman,

Firstly, I thank you. THE WALKING DEAD is my addiction.

Every Wednesday I feel like Billy Madison and his "Nudie Magazine Day" hoping that the new issue of TWD is out. You make me love my boyfriend more because he got me hooked on your comic (along with others like Preacher and Watchmen. Great stuff.) I've even got my best friend hooked, and she never would have picked up a comic on her own.

You should try Y: The Last Man... *it's good.* I've always loved zombies, but it always bothered me how dumb some of the characters were. Not yours though, they're as realistic as it gets. I just thought I would let you know how much I love TWD. Thank you again, and keep 'em coming, man.

Carissa =)

Awesome, thanks for writing, Carissa. It's always good to hear from our female readers.

Dear Robert,

I've been reading your Image stuff since near the beginning so I figure it's time to give you some well- deserved kudos. This is only the second letter I've ever written to a comic (yeah, that's right NOT the first! Take that Kirkman!!). The first was to the fine folks that do Proof every single month.

Issue №59 was excellent and left me with the feeling that big stuff is just around the corner. Morgan is freaking crazy and I love it. After reading the special a while back, I hoped Morgan and his son would be okay so they could become a part of the group. Was

making Duane a zombie a tough decision for you?

Not at all, it was always planned from the very beginning that if we ever saw them again, Duane would be a zombie. Actually, I guess it's fine to go ahead and mention that Morgan was originally going to meet back up with the group much sooner, and when I realized I wouldn't be able to logically get him back in the book sooner, I created Tyreese to do some of the things Morgan was going to do. The big fight between Tyreese and Rick from issue 22 & 23 was originally planned to be Morgan and Rick... but those were plans made before the first issue even shipped... so a lot of that stuff has changed along the way.

I'm looking forward to seeing you and Cory together again on Destroyer and thanks for "on time in 09!" I'd buy your stuff regardless, but it IS appreciated. One tiny criticism though.... Please get an editor or proofreader for your responses in Letter Hacks.... mad typos in №59. Please don't let it be that dude with a chick's name because everything he touches gets cancelled, dammit (The Irredeemable Ant-Man and BRIT) If printing this means bumping out an Andrew J. Shaw letter, I'm all for it!

Image Rules All,
Lee

Typos, bah... you know what I mean most of the time, right? I suppose it could be seen as being a tad unprofessional, but I've noticed typos in nearly every letters column I've ever read. It happens.

Dearest Kirkman,

I have been reading THE WALKING DEAD since it started and have always enjoyed it. However, as of late, two things have really started to bother me:

1. Why is everyone following Eugene so blindly?! So what if he says his work is classified? Wouldn't Rick want to know if this guy is telling the truth if he's going to put Carl's life in danger by going on a trek to Washington D.C.? Also, Washington was a heavily populated area - wouldn't there be thousands and thousands of zombies there? Why is no one thinking ahead? Eugene could be completely full of shit and no one is really questioning him. It all seems a little too convenient to me.

Maybe so... but to be fair, and I believe the characters have discussed this, going to Washington in and of itself seems like a good idea. That's where the government would be, things might even be stable there, who knows. They've already established picking an arbitrary place to stay is dangerous—more dangerous than being on the road... so even if Eugene is full of it—what's the harm? Also, Abraham did a good deal of convincing on Eugene's behalf... and then you could add to all this the fact that our group was pretty shell-shocked when these guys came along with some kind of mission to help take their minds off what had just happened to them.

2. What is up with Dale? It seems like all he does now a-days is bitch and give advice. "Wah Wah, I hate sleeping in a tent" or "Now, Rick I'm going to tell you what you should do." Is this what you think seniors sound like? If this all we can expect from him maybe it's time to send Dale off to the old RV park in the sky.

Dale's been through a lot. I don't think all seniors are like this, but I think he's got more than enough reasons to be crabby. Also, Rick is always messing things up for him lately... he's got a lot to complain about.

Otherwise THE WALKING DEAD is still excellent. Keep up the good work.

Matt Ferguson

P.S. How does Charlie keep turning in such quality work month after month? Do you blackmail him? Do you know specifics about what it takes for him to "relax" at night?

Charlie is a professional, dedicated human being. More so than myself, I believe. He's a damn machine and this book just wouldn't be the same without him. And yes, I bribe him with drugs.

Hey look... another issue, in the can. WOO!

See you all back here in four weeks. Plenty of time for you to read through the entirety of Y: The Last Man.

—Robert Kirkman

NÚMERO 61

SALA DE MONTAJE

con Robert Kirkman

TWD (61)

NAVE ESPACIAL

(1) ENCUENTRAN LA FURGONETA.

(2) LA NAVIDAD SE HA ADELANTADO ESTE AÑO!

(3) MICHONNE... "¿SABES MATAR ZOMBIS?" CARL: NOS... NOS SALTAMOS LA NAVIDAD...

(4)

(5)

(6) BEN MATA A BILLY.

(7)

(8) DALE + RICK HABLAN SOBRE QUÉ HACER.

(9)

(10)

(11)

(12) APARECE EL CURA.

(13)

(14)

(15)

(16) ¿RICK OYE UN DISPARO? DE NOCHE... DALE + ANDREA EN EL BOSQUE... CHARLANDO.
¿ESTA NOCHE VAS A DORMIR EN LA FURGONETA?

(17) CARL SE LEVANTA. YO - - NO LO SÉ.

(18) RICK SE DESPIERTA, OYE UN DISPARO. CARL - - QUÉDATE EN LA TIENDA!

(19) CARL VUELVE A ENTRAR A HURTADILLAS... FUERA DE PANEL...

(20) DALE ESTÁ DESOLADO... AL DÍA SIGUIENTE...

(21) EUGENE COMPRUEBA LA RADIO... NADA...

(22) DE VUELTA A LA CARRETERA... GENTE OBSERVANDO.

"¿QUÉ HACEMOS AHORA?"

"LOS SEGUIREMOS."

(62) ROZADURAS CAUSADAS POR EL SILLÍN... QUERÉIS QUEDAROS LOS CABALLOS... EMPEZAD A MONTARLOS!

GABRIEL DEJÓ A LA GENTE FUERA DE LA IGLESIA, LOS DEJÓ MORIR.

RICK MATARÁ A GABRIEL PORQUE PIENSA QUE TRABAJA PARA LOS CAZADORES.
GABE: "TE PERDONO... SÉ QUE DIOS TE HA ENVIADO AQUÍ PARA QUE HAGAS ESTO POR LO QUE DEJÉ QUE LE PASARA A ESA POBRE GENTE A LA QUE ECHÉ. ME LO MEREZCO.

¡Madre mía, qué número más cargado! Ben mata a Billy. Carl mata a Ben. Se introduce al Padre Gabriel. Andrea encuentra la furgoneta. ¡Y además se presenta a los Cazadores! ¡¿Todo en el mismo número?! ¡Esto está a tope! ¡A TOPE!

La cosa estaba al rojo vivo en esta era de THE WALKING DEAD, eso seguro. Es muy guay revivir esto desde una perspectiva externa. Lo que más me gusta de hacer series de larga duración es el afán por mantener las cosas en constante evolución, siempre escalando, y procurando mantener la historia fresca y atractiva, con independencia de su duración. Llegados a este punto, habíamos superado la duración de la mayoría de las series independientes, y es fácil que el público se aburra, por lo que yo intentaba pisar el acelerador y mantener el ritmo.

Me ayudó mucho que Charlie estuviera en su mejor momento por aquel entonces. ¿Ya lo he comentado antes? ¿Ha estado Charlie "en su mejor momento" cada diez números más o menos? Quizás. Siempre estaba mejorando. ¡Menuda leyenda es ese tío!

En fin, esta trama es un poco escueta. Cuando un número tiene muchos "acontecimientos", me resulta muy fácil saber dónde va cada cosa, así que la trama puede ser así de sencilla. Cuando pasan muchas cosas, todo encaja a la perfección.

En la parte superior derecha, veréis la palabra "Nave espacial", de la que no recuerdo NADA. Qué palabra más rara escribí ahí arriba. Me encantaría decir que estaba pensando en incluir una nave estelar en la serie en este punto, porque eso sería divertidísimo, pero desafortunadamente no era así.

¡ALERTA DE SALA DE MONTAJE! Mirad abajo a la derecha. Hay SPOILERS: "Gabriel dejó a la gente fuera de la iglesia y los dejó morir..." Ya había trabajado en el trasfondo de la historia de Gabriel. ¡Pero mirad lo que sigue! Era toda una trama para Gabriel que se descartó por completo. ¡Rick iba a matar a Gabriel, al pensar que trabajaba para los Cazadores! Y fijaos en cómo habría aceptado Gabriel ese momento. Eso habría sido interesante. Es una pena que nos lo perdiéramos, aunque adoro al personaje de Gabriel y se habrían perdido muchas cosas de haberlo hecho. Además, se asemeja un poco a la muerte de Martínez, donde Rick lo mató para proteger a su gente y eso QUIZÁS no fue necesario.

Además, hay una notita para el cómic Nº62. Por lo visto, pensé que sería interesante que Glenn y Maggie decidieran que ya no querían seguir montando a caballo porque tenían rozaduras... pero creo que no llegamos a utilizar nunca esa parte de la trama. ¡ALERTA DE SALA DE MONTAJE! ¡Parte 2!

NOTAS DE PÁGINA:

1: Básicamente eso es todo.

2: Esa línea de diálogo me decía todo lo que necesitaba saber para esta escena. La frase de Andrea: "Ni siquiera me importa para qué se usaba esta furgoneta antes... mirad eso... ¡colchones!" es ALUCINANTE. Solo quería dejar constancia de ello. Me hace mucha gracia... pero GUAU. Además, Carl en silencio molesto por haberse saltado la Navidad es muy divertido.

3: Ni idea de qué iba a tratar esto. ¿Quizás Michonne estaba muy cansada, y le pedía a otro que matara a los zombis? Fuera lo que fuera, no se utilizó.

4: Lo dejé en blanco y se convirtió en otro momento de Lori al teléfono, para mantener viva esa historia.

6: Creo que originalmente tenía planeado mostrar a Ben matando a Billy en lugar de que Andrea lo descubriera después de los hechos.

8: Cuando escribí esta parte, tenía previsto que fuera mucho más resumida, pero como se puede ver en las siguientes páginas en blanco, ya sabía que esta gran muerte sería un momento que podría ocupar muchas páginas con una gran carga emocional, así que dejé espacio en la trama para que las cosas fluyeran.

12: Esto se pospone hasta la página 14, y la discusión en torno a Ben continúa. Cuando los números estaban planeados así, simplemente me metía en el guion y dejaba que las cosas fluyeran sin preocuparme mucho por la duración de las escenas. Diría que estos números son "fáciles" de escribir, pero eso no es del todo cierto. Es más como si hubiera un flujo narrativo que los impulsa hacia adelante, por lo que parece que las cosas avanzan "rápido", pero en realidad no es fácil porque tienes que mantener el ritmo, si es que eso tiene sentido. Recuerdo la presión de escribir escenas así, y tener que asegurarme de plasmar los diálogos antes de que se me olvidaran, porque todo fluía. Esos son los momentos en los que parece que los personajes son reales y que estás haciendo todo lo posible por transcribir lo que dicen. Son momentos que no se dan muy a menudo (al menos en mi caso), pero son realmente mágicos.

16: Parece que la trama se corresponde estrechamente con el número de aquí en adelante. Esta sección probablemente se planeó retrocediendo desde la página 22 para ver dónde caían los momentos de paso de página. Así es cómo va: Yo sabía que los Cazadores aparecen en la página 22. Y...: Carl le dispara a Ben en un paso de página, tiene que ocurrir con bastante espacio para llegar a la página 22, por lo que estará en... la página 18. Después, todo lo demás encaja en su sitio.

19: Probablemente sea la primera vez que escribo algo que explícitamente no debía aparecer en la página. Al final, mientras hacía el guion, decidí que Carl se colara en la tienda dentro del panel e hice que Morgan lo viera.

22: Una forma muy discreta de presentar a los Cazadores. Es un gran punto de inflexión en la serie, y su existencia da comienzo en la trama con "gente observando".

"Si les dirijo hacia una trampa, amigo mío...
¿no se pondrían las cosas feas para ustedes?"

DAVID FINCH

CHARLIE ADLARD

STEPHANIE HANS

NÚMERO 62

¡DISPONIBLE 3 DE MAYO, 2023!

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